

The Formentera Department of Language Normalisation reports that, aside from adhering to the European Day of Languages on Saturday 26 September, the department has added its name to a proclamation by the Govern balear favouring diversity of European languages and cultures and efforts to foment and protect them.

“This day is crucial to securing the official status of Catalan in Europe”, said FDCN chief Raquel Guasch. “Keep in mind, in Spain and in the Catalan-speaking lands in particular, there are still milestones of linguistic normalisation that we’ve yet to reach”, she continued. “Catalan still doesn’t benefit from the prestige and presence of its status as an official language. This is about highlighting the importance of language policies within public administrations”, she insisted.

Guasch said preserving the Catalan language was key, and remarked the Consell’s adoption earlier this year of revised nomenclature for towns, roads and public spaces in urban areas on the island was “essential...the visibility of toponyms means our attention to this subject is crucial”.

Promoted by the Balearic divisions of exterior relations and language policies, week-long celebrations around the European Day of Languages were joined by different island councils in the Balearics, the Federation of Local Entities in the Balearic Islands (FELIB), the Palma municipal government and Europe’s Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity.

The keynote act is a 7.00pm lecture tomorrow (Friday) at the Balearic parliament by Antoni Llabrés. The doctor and professor of law at the UIB will speak about the legal aspects of multilingual regions and language rights. The talk will be livecast at diaeuropeullengues.caib.cat .

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